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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PSC ASSERTS JURISDICTION OVER INTRASTATE PIPELINE

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Public Service Commission declared Tuesday that it would have jurisdiction over an intrastate natural gas pipeline similar to one proposed to run from Clay Center to Columbus.

The Commission's unanimous decision resulted from a Commission investigation initiated after receiving an inquiry from Nebraska Resources Company regarding the Commission's jurisdiction over a new natural gas pipeline to be built wholly within the state with a possible second phase construction from Columbus to Norfolk.

In determining that it would have jurisdiction over a pipeline similar to that proposed by Nebraska Resources, the Commission said that under the State Natural Gas Act local distribution companies could receive service from the pipeline at state-regulated rates.

Commission Chairman Rod Johnson of Sutton said, "We appreciate the wishes of potential ratepayers and communities that the pipeline will spur economic development. The Commission welcomes the continued participation of all interested persons."

In a hearing on the Commission's jurisdiction on September 25, verbal testimony was offered by Norfolk Mayor Gordon Adams, Elkhorn Valley Economic Development Council Executive Director R.J. Baker, Nebraska Municipal Power Pool General Counsel Chris Dibbern, Aquila representative Pat Joyce, Northern Natural Gas Vice President and General Counsel J.G. Porter, John Lingelbach for Cornerstone Energy, and Stephen Bruckner for SourceGas. Senator Mike Flood of Legislative District 19 submitted written testimony.

Several letters of support were submitted by businesses in communities where the proposed pipeline is planned. Written comments were submitted by the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool, Aquila, Cornerstone Energy, Nebraska Resources Company, Northern Natural Gas, NorthWestern Corporation, SourceGas Distribution, and Public Advocate Roger Cox.

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